

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced the approval of funding for the Clarke County Board of Education by the United States Department of Education. The project funding, which is being awarded through the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program, totals \$225,878, and can be used in one of the following program areas: increasing library holdings; improving schools' technological resources and capabilities; facilitating Internet links; enhancing the professional development opportunities for teachers; and expanding hours of access to library services.

"I am extremely pleased the Department of Education has approved this funding for the Clarke County Board of Education," Bonner said. "I cannot think of anything more important than securing the future for our children and providing them with every opportunity to receive a good and fulfilling education.

The funding this grant provides will enable the county to increase the number of resources available to schoolchildren in that area, and through that provide them with even greater educational and developmental opportunities."

According to the Department of Education, this grant will be used in the Everybody Reads (E.R.) project, which will include the updating of print collections, strengthening independent reading, and choosing materials to increase students' early literacy skills and reading fluency. Additionally, the funding will allow for expanded hours of operation for school media centers, and will allow for greater cooperation between teachers, reading coaches, and library media specialists.